OPEN
UNIVERSITY OF
CYPRUS
www.ouc.ac.cy

ABOUT THE OUC

CONTENTS

In a versatile world and in spite of all uncertainties, there are some obvious educational requirements. Firstly, university graduates need to be competitive in an increasingly global marketplace. Secondly, they need the kind of education that enables them to engage articulately as committed citizens with active thinking and global vision. Thirdly, they need to have access to an unparalleled selection of experiential learning opportunities and curricula that enables them to acquire and apply knowledge, to develop skills, to produce innovative ideas and put them into practice and develop their personal and professional growth.

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The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) was established in 2002 as **the second public University of Cyprus** and **the only University devoted entirely to open and distance learning**. At OUC, there is no "one size fits all" approach to higher education. It offers **flexible, open access, quality programmes, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels**, enabling students to follow a broad intellectual path, irrespective of age, time, location or life circumstances.

In just eight academic years, OUC has experienced near-exponential growth in student numbers and it **is already the largest university in Cyprus in terms of postgraduate students**. The University's present circumstances are bright, even auspicious. And so is its future. Building on its proud origins as the country's only university dedicated to distance teaching, OUC is growing quickly in academic stature and overall reputation. At OUC, faculty members are leading scholars and researchers, committed to lead by example, work closely with students and equip them with the critical competencies to succeed. In the 2006-2007 academic year, OUC enrolled its first 162 students; now there are approximately 4.900 students enrolled in the 21 programmes offered for the 2014-2015 academic year and over 1.200 people have already graduated with an OUC degree.
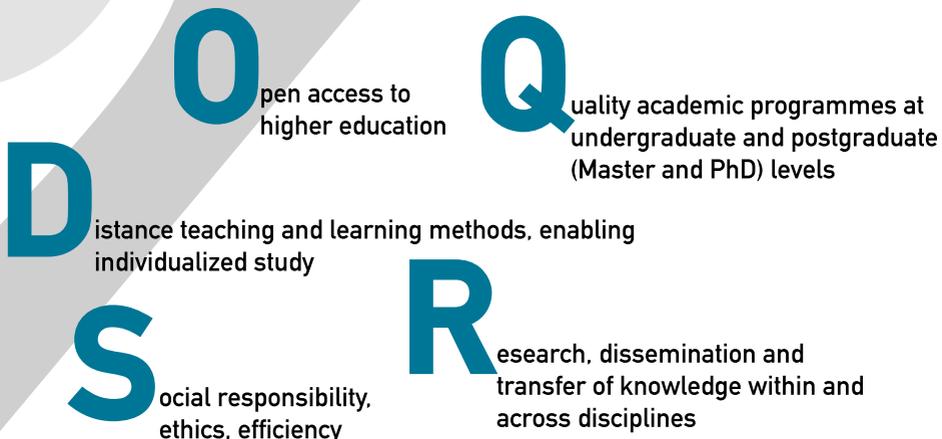
1.

VISION AND MISSION

VISION AND MISSION

The Open University of Cyprus aspires to establish itself as a modern, pioneering university, with international presence and recognition, mainly in southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean. Its mission is the promotion of quality, higher education and excellence, with an innovating educational model and interdisciplinary research. OUC is a **university open to all** people, methods and ideas, committed to endorse equal opportunities for all, serving the society through science and knowledge, and contributing to the development of Cyprus to become a quality regional centre for education and research.

Following its vision, OUC is already offering quality academic programmes in languages other than Greek. Furthermore, it creates strong partnerships with universities and research institutions in the region and Europe and promotes international cooperation, continuously upgrading its technological, e-Learning infrastructure. The goal is to create an international institution of higher education that will meet the social and educational needs of the country: a flagship institution promoting open and distance learning. In parallel, OUC emphasizes on research and innovation in various scientific fields and actively supports its faculty members towards participating in knowledge transfer activities and disseminating their research outcome. Finally, through its social endeavors and its commitment to connect and interact with the society, OUC envisions its role as an inspiring educational institution and a pioneering open university, offering a stimulating environment for students, staff and alumni, with a special interest to promote culture and cooperation with neighboring countries and beyond.

Open access to higher education

Quality academic programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate (Master and PhD) levels

Distance teaching and learning methods, enabling individualized study

Social responsibility, ethics, efficiency

Research, dissemination and transfer of knowledge within and across disciplines
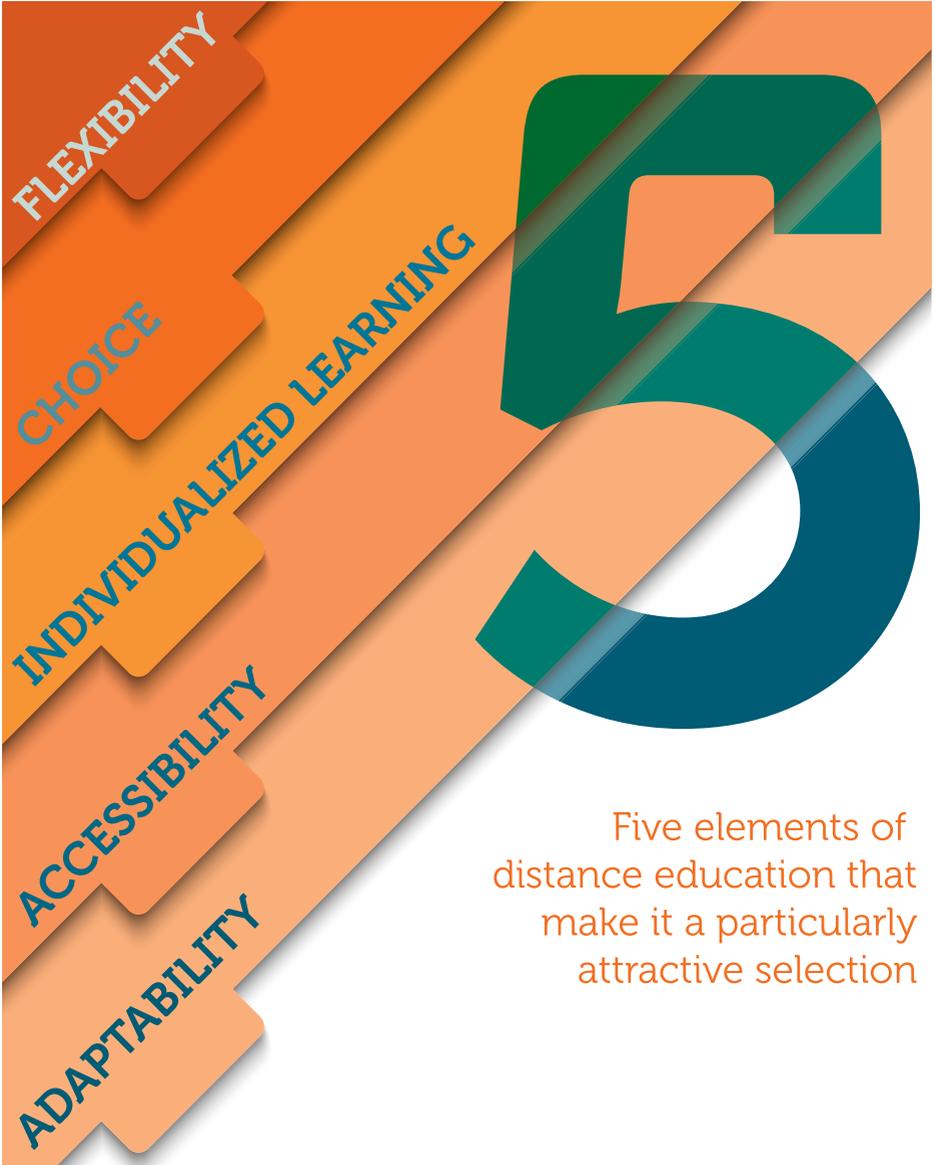
2.

EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY

EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY

With the advancement of technology, new forms of delivering education are constantly evolving, so that acquiring knowledge, skills and competences are no longer bound by space and time and university education is no longer limited to rigid pedagogical methods. Distance education differs from conventional classroom-based education, mainly because it allows students to complete a degree without physically attending to scheduled lectures. Students conduct their studies with the use of a variety of information technologies to access course material, carry out assignments and receive instructions and feedback from their tutors and classmates, at their own time and place. Over the years, OUC has made every effort to ensure that it is even more open and accessible, flexible and adaptable to society's needs, and multi-format in terms of educational methods and materials in order to respond to the diversified needs of its students.

The main educational tool is OUC's **eLearning Platform** – eClass - that facilitates online teaching and learning, allowing the establishment of virtual classrooms, equipped with real-time and asynchronous collaboration tools. eClass allows course management to meet various requirements. Students can access their courses' educational material online, organize their study calendars, submit their coursework and receive feedback on their progress. In a true collaborative environment, OUC faculty and tutors are both teachers and learners. They assume the role of a facilitator and not just the "source of knowledge", connecting with students in an interpersonal way that addresses their own learning methods and needs.

In eClass, students can attend web meetings and lectures online at specific time intervals, scheduled by their tutors, or watch the recorded sessions at their own convenience – a key plus of eLearning over traditional, classroom-based learning. At the same time, the learning experience is complemented by face-to-face group meetings that are scheduled throughout the academic year, and while not mandatory, they play a key supporting role in each student's educational process.

FLEXIBILITY

CHOICE

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING

ACCESSIBILITY

ADAPTABILITY

5

Five elements of distance education that make it a particularly attractive selection

3.

STUDIES AT OUC

STUDIES AT OUC

With a wide choice of qualifications at the undergraduate and postgraduate (Master and PhD) levels, the Open University of Cyprus offers students flexibility and choice. The degrees awarded by OUC are equivalent to those of all accredited universities worldwide, regardless of the educational methodology used - conventional or not.

DEGREE STRUCTURE

OUC operates on a modular degree system, by which degrees are obtained through the accumulation of **ECTS** credits (i.e. the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System), facilitating student mobility and interlinks between conventional universities and the Open University of Cyprus.

TEACHING LANGUAGE

The main language of instruction is **Greek**. A limited number of Master degrees are offered in **English** with additional English-language programmes currently under development.

APPLICATION PROCESS

At the beginning of each academic year the University announces the enrollment opportunities for all programmes, and the applications can be easily submitted electronically using OUC's **online** application system.

APPLICATIONS PERIOD

The applications period normally begins in mid-November and ends in mid-January. The exact dates of the application period are announced on the university's website long before the starting date. The applications period always refers to the academic year that will begin the following September.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Adopting an **open-access policy** means that OUC is open to all. Each programme has its own minimum entry requirements which are available on the University's website. Programmes administered jointly by OUC and other universities may have specific requirements. Applicants, who are interested for admission to a postgraduate programme at Master's level, must hold a degree from an accredited university. Admission to PhD programmes requires the completion of a Master's degree.

With over **4.980** applications for approximately **1.950** undergraduate and postgraduate places in September 2014, OUC proves to be a very popular choice for students who seek to enhance their education and continuity of their studies and, improve their professional career.

Academic Calendar for
2014-2015

OUC's academic year usually starts in the middle of September until the end of July, and includes both teaching periods and exams.

The academic year is divided into two semesters. The Fall Semester usually begins in the middle of September until mid-January. The Spring Semester usually goes from the middle of January to the end of July.

4.

FACULTIES & ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

FACULTIES AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

With three Faculties and a wide choice of study programmes at the undergraduate and postgraduate (Master and PhD) levels, the Open University of Cyprus offers students flexibility and choice. Whatever the focus; humanities, social sciences, applied sciences, business, health, technology, communications or environmental studies, students will get involved in a strong academic programme, continually updated to reflect the developments of research and technology.

Course offering for the 2014-2015 academic year

	Bachelor	Master	Doctorate
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences			
Communications and *new* Journalism: ↳ | Communication ↳ | Journalism		●	●
Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning		●	
Cultural Policy and Development		●	
Greek Language and Literature		●	●
Social Information Systems: ↳ | Analysis of Social Information Systems ↳ | Design of Social Information Systems		●	
Studies in Hellenic Culture	●		●
Theatre Studies: ↳ | Reception of Ancient Drama ↳ | Theatre in Education ↳ | Acting and Directing		●	●
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences			
Applied Health Informatics		●	
Environmental Conservation and Management: ↳ | Environmental Protection (Energy and Pollution) ↳ | Terrestrial Ecosystem Management		●	●
Information and Communications Systems: ↳ | Intelligent Systems ↳ | Wireless and Mobile Communications ↳ | System Security ↳ | Educational Technology ↳ | Digital Services		●	●
Wireless Communication Systems		●	

Faculty of Economics and Management			
Banking and Finance		●	
Business Administration	●	●*	
Educational Leadership [1]		*	
Educational Studies: ↳ | Educational Leadership and Policy ↳ | Theory of Education /Curriculum Development ↳ | Didactics of Natural Sciences ↳ | Continuing Education		●	●
European Union Law[2] : ↳ | European Competition Law ↳ | European Business Law		●	
Health Policy and Planning		●	●
Healthcare Management		●	●
Management, Technology and Quality		●	
Police Studies [3]	●		

For more information on the OUC undergraduate and postgraduate programmes scan this code with a smartphone
or visit: http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/university/programme

New Master's degrees to be offered for the 2015–2016 academic year:

/ MSc. Project Management
/ MSc. Energy Systems
/ MSc. Cyber Security
/ MSc. Risk Management
/ MA. Didactics and Methodology of Mathematics
/ MA. Journalism and Communication in the Digital Era

* Programmes of studies offered in English
[1] Joint degree with the Saint Louis University (USA)
[2] Joint degree with the European University of Cyprus
[3] Offered exclusively for Cyprus Police Academy graduates.

OUC Library

OUC's Library provides an open access to knowledge and is a gateway to a comprehensive collection of books, journals, and other related publications from printed databases, while through the e-Library members of the OUC community have access to global electronic sources, such as international databases, e-journals, e-books, as well as digital collections and other resources. OUC's Library also provides access to the University's academic publications and students dissertations and theses.

Collection available to the OUC Community

Physical Collection

- 17.832 book copies
- 11.814 individual titles

OUC's Open Access Repository

Institutional Repository contains:
- 9 PhD Thesis
- 871 Master Thesis

Digital Collections indexing:
- 692 Individual photos and documents

Digital Collection

- 89.065 e-Books (titles)
- 32.198 journals (via subscriptions)
- 175 databases (via subscriptions)
- 2.800.000 Theses from American and European Universities (via subscriptions)
- 1.615 Conference Proceedings (via subscriptions)
- ~200.100 general interest free access electronic resources organized in 100 collections (via the Library's website)

5.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH

Knowledge, creation, innovation, scientific impact: OUC researchers push the boundaries of knowledge and deliver value-added results

Research at the Open University of Cyprus is wide-ranging, interdisciplinary and includes both individual projects of its academic staff, as well as collaborative efforts which involve local and international universities, research centers and institutes. Under its internationalisation strategy, the University continues to develop strong and effective partnerships which provide researchers, staff and students opportunities for international collaboration and active involvement in multidisciplinary projects both in regional and global basis.

University research activities are funded by the University's state funded budget, or from various national, European and international organisations and programmes, such as the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and Interreg.

Research at the OUC is primarily conducted by its Faculty and is currently specialized in the scientific areas of;

- **/ educational sciences, literature and linguistics,**
- **/ arts, theatre, history and archeology,**
- **/ communications, journalism and social media,**
- **/ health sciences, health economics and applied statistics,**
- **/ educational technology, e-Learning,**
- **/ environment, ecology and climate change,**
- **/ information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence telecommunications.**

The direct outcomes of research are reflected in the Curriculum Vitae of the academic staff of the University, their publications and the research oriented postgraduate programmes of OUC.

There are four (4) independent research labs currently supporting collaborative research and engaging faculty and students from across the University:

Educational Technology Lab

The OUC Lab for Educational Technology conducts research and publishing in the areas of open and distance learning methodologies, internet safety, mobile and adaptive learning, human-machine interaction and ICT utilization in school education.

Telecommunication Systems Research Lab

The Telecommunication Systems Research Laboratory (TSRL) operation is to investigate state of the art research areas in wireless communications and to support teaching activities at OUC. Researchers of TSRL have extensive research expertise in the areas related to Radio Network Planning, Terrestrial and Satellite Communications, MIMO Communications, Image Processing for Telecom applications, Localization/Positioning, UWB Communications, RF/Antenna design and large scale Telecommunication network modelling.

Computational Cognition Lab

The research carried out at the Computational Cognition Lab seeks to understand cognitive processes often associated with individual or collective intelligence - such as learning, reasoning, sensing, communication, cooperation - and how these are employed by humans and/or other life-forms in everyday life. Emphasis is placed on the development of formal computational models for various aspects of cognitive processes and the analysis of the formal implications that such models have.

Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Lab

The Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Lab is based on traditional approaches to ecosystem management coupled with landscape ecology principles: namely the importance given on spatial configuration and larger spatial extents of ecological processes. The TEM lab specializes in research on:

/ Mediterranean Ecosystems with emphasis on islands and mountains
/ Landscape based approach to nature conservation
/ Spatial Analysis and modeling for species habitats and ecosystem services

6.

ACADEMIA – INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE

ACADEMIA – INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE

Across the world, technological breakthroughs, ageing populations, urbanization, rising unemployment and the evolution of social structures are accelerating changes in the labor markets and in skill requirements. Upgrading skills and ensuring a better match between the supply of skills and labor market demands are critically important for Cyprus' future, growth and productivity, enhancing its capacity to respond to change, and foster fairness and social cohesion.

Fact | need to bridge the gap between the worlds of education and labor market

Higher education institutions and enterprises need to join forces and develop innovating designs and sustainable ways for increasing human capital, promoting entrepreneurship and supporting graduates in developing their transversal skills, such as problem solving abilities, creative thinking and ingenuity. Embracing the idea to encourage a more structured, result-driven cooperation ventures with the business world, the Open University of Cyprus is operating an Academia – Industry Liaison Office. The main aim of this Office is to develop and establish mutually beneficial links and synergies between OUC and the business sector, through research collaborations and partnership opportunities.

In a nutshell, the OUC Liaison Office:

- **/** develops and creates synergies between the University's academic and student community and the business world
- **/** promotes the reciprocal transfer of knowledge, know-how and expertise
- **/** disseminates the University's research results and promotes the exploitation of those results by Cypriot and regional businesses
- **/** maximizes opportunities and employment potential of OUC's students and graduates through a work placement framework

7.
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Open University of Cyprus is developing a holistic internationalization strategy by forging strategic international alliances, participating in European and international educational and research programmes, promoting transnational delivery of degrees via open and distance learning and teaching, fostering an international dimension of curricula and increasing mobility of students and staff.

OUC's collaborations with domestic and foreign universities, research centers and institutions take an array of different forms, ranging from student and personnel exchange, joint degrees and teaching partnerships to joint research.
The development, promotion of agreements and cooperation between the academic staff, student, and faculty enables the facilitation of research contacts
and mutual assistance at the whole academic level, while providing opportunities in international education for both domestic and international students.

OUC's international partners:

- ❙ Hellenic Open University (Greece)
- ❙ Saint Louis University (United States of America)
- ❙ University of Haifa (Israel)
- ❙ Mariupol State University (Ukraine)
- ❙ Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (Russia)
- ❙ Donau Universität Krems (Austria)
- ❙ Universidade Aberta (Portugal)
- ❙ Transilvania University of Braşov (Romania)
- ❙ Al Quds Open University (Palestinian Authority)

OUC actively participates in university networks and international organisations. These international linkages are vital to the University, which strives for academic excellence and to provide its staff and students mobility options and the best possible educational and career opportunities. By participating in these networks OUC also promotes policy positions relating to lifelong learning and the development of distance education and e-Learning.

OUC is a member of several high profile European and international organisations and networks:

EADTU: European Association of Distance Teaching Universities
EAEC: European Association of Erasmus Coordinators
EDEN: European Distance and e-Learning Network
EFQUEL: European Foundation for Quality in eLearning
EOC: European Office of Cyprus
EUA: European University Association
EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
EU²S²: European Union Universities of Small States Association
ICDE: International Council for Open and Distance Education
RETI: Reseaux d' Excellence des Territoires Insulaires
HUMANE: Heads of University Management and Administration Network in Europe

Mobility opportunities at OUC

The Open University of Cyprus is strongly committed to international research collaboration and mobility. Agreements range from general student and faculty mobility agreements to very specific research collaboration and joint programming agreements.

Within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013, OUC supported the mobility of its students, graduates, faculty and administrative staff with Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci exchange programmes. In 2014, the OUC was awarded with the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and will continue, even more proactively, to support the mobility of students, graduates and staff to improve the quality of higher education by encouraging international cooperation with foreign universities in the framework of the new **Erasmus+ Programme.**

Moreover, the University continuously expands its' network, with other higher education institutions and organizations across Europe, to provide opportunities for students to undertake undergraduate or graduate studies and internships in foreign countries. With Erasmus+ funding, graduates are also able to carry out work placements abroad, while there are funding opportunities for staff – academic, research and administrative - to gain international experience in the wider global community.

For more information and support please contact the OUC Mobility Office at **erasmus@ouc.ac.cy**
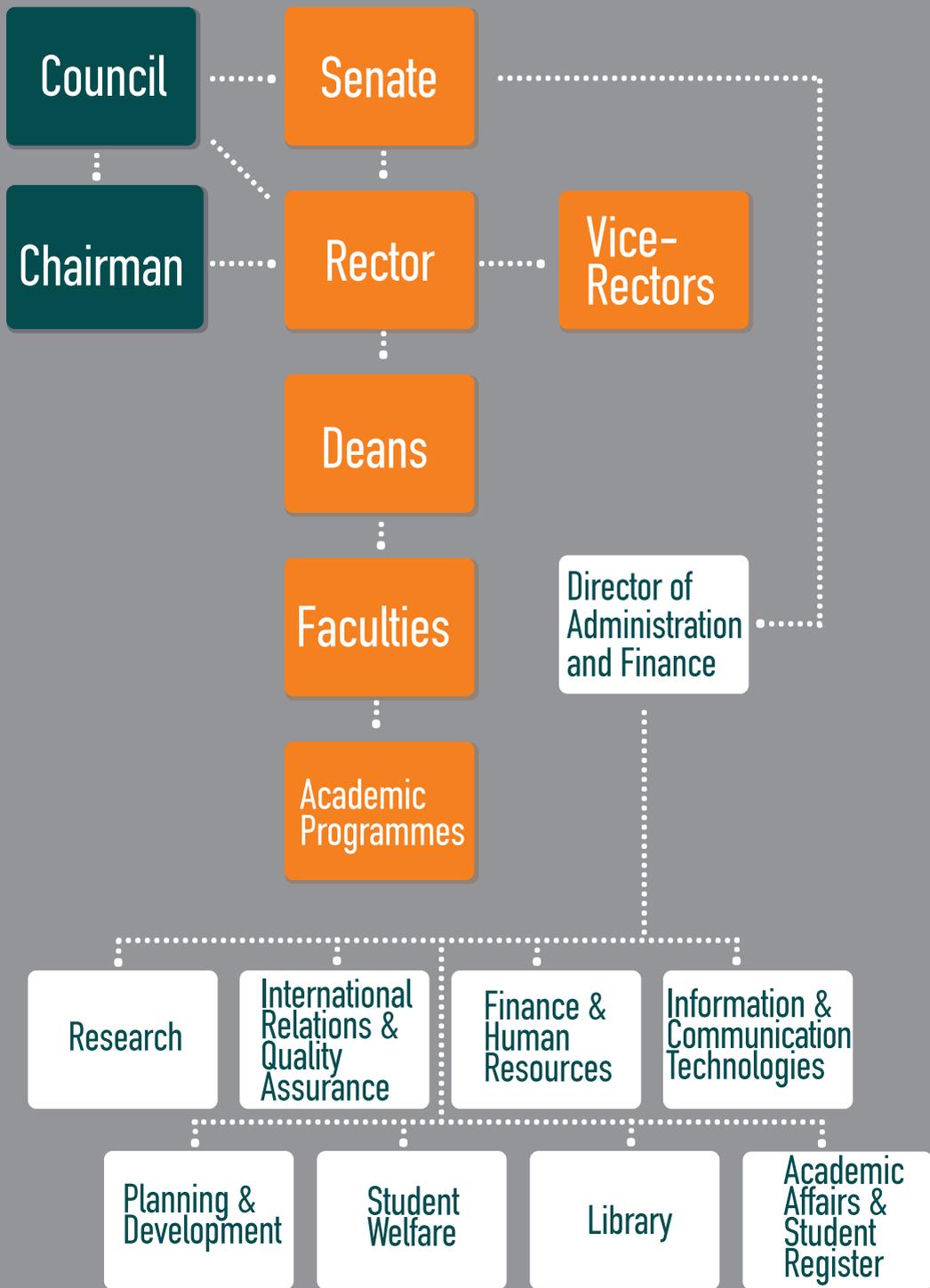
8.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Governing Board

- [] **Prof. Costas Christou** (Chairman)
- [] **Prof. Agis Papadopoulos** (Vice-chairman for Academic Affairs)
- [] **Mr. Charalambos Prountzos** (Vice-chairman for Finance and Administration)
- [] **Prof. Petros Pashiardis** (member)
- [] **Prof. Stephanos Efthymiadis** (member)
- [] **Prof. Yiannis Ioannou** (member)
- [] **Assoc. Prof. Stavros Stavrou** (member)
- [] **Assoc. Prof. Panayiotis Thanassas** (member)
- [] **Mr. Nicolas Yiasoumis** (member)
- [] **Ms. Despina Chapoupi** (member)
- [] **Mr. Andreas Panayides** (member)

Director of Administration and Finance: **Mr. Christopher Christodoulides**

The Open University of Cyprus is a public corporate body.
Until it reaches autonomy, the University's governing body is a state appointed Governing Board, which
assumes the role and responsibilities of both the University Council and the Senate.

9.

SOCIAL
CORPORATE
RESPONSIBILITY

SOCIAL CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

As a public institution, the Open University of Cyprus is acutely aware of its social responsibility and maintains open lines of communication with social partners and stakeholders.

OUC always seeks a transparent and fertile two-way dialogue with all those interested for studies in the academic programmes offered by the University. To strengthen its capacity to offer programmes that meet the needs of the labour market and that provide students with relevant skills and competences that enhance their employability, OUC works closely with public and non-public institutions and organisations.

From the first year of its operation (2006), OUC worked on important improvements in the handling and presentation of its progress in the field of Social Corporate Responsibility:

- **/ OUC published its Strategic Development Plan (2012-2015)**
- **/ OUC publishes Annual Reports, including financial reviews**
- **/ OUC has state-approved regulations governing its operation**

In order to improve the engagement of the University with the labor market and the local community:

- **/ the University may organize various vocational trainings for the staff of public and private organisations and companies located in Cyprus, Greece and beyond**
- **/ every year, OUC organises open lectures, seminars and workshops, with the participation of important personalities from various scientific fields, in cooperation with public and private organisations and companies**

In addition, OUC Faculty members participate in various national and international committees dealing with educational policies and evaluation of various local and foreign universities' departments and research units.

With a focus on lifelong learning, the Open University of Cyprus is already considered a leader in the Cypriot higher education sector in terms of diversity, equity and access to education.

10.

THE OUC IN NUMBERS

THE OUC IN NUMBERS

3 Faculties   **18** Faculty members   **350** part-time Tutors   **77** Administrative staff

4.884 Students enrolled for the 2014-2015 academic year

1.794 Graduates (incl. graduation ceremony of 2013-14)

€14.13 mln 2014 Budget

5 internally funded research projects under implementation for 2014   **14** externally funded research projects under implementation for 2014   **47** successfully completed research projects (2006-2014)

OUC Student Profile (based on information for the 2014-2015 academic year)

Students' location

61% live in Greece

38% live in Cyprus

1% of OUC students are located in third countries

Students' gender

62% are women

38% are men

Average student age: 35 years old

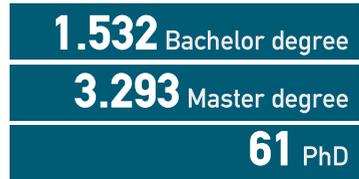### Students' educational and employment background

11% of undergraduate students already have a Bachelor's degree

8% of Master students already have a Master's degree

~65% of OUC students are working people

2014-2015 Student Enrolment Qualification

1.532 Bachelor degree

3.293 Master degree

61 PhD

2014-2015 Student Enrolment By Faculty

1.780 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

2.597 Faculty of Economics and Management

509 Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences

Qualifications Awarded By Faculty

874 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

753 Faculty of Economics and Management

158 Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences

9 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

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http://www.ouc.ac.cy/web/guest/university/news/versions

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